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FOR PUBLIC AFFAIRS STAFF

PROGRAM Senator Barry Goldwater  
Commentary STATION WRC Radio

DATE February 27, 1980 7:15 AM CITY Washington, DC

SUBJECT The Proposed New Charter for the CIA

JOHN IRVING: One area that we're looking into in some depth this morning is the whole area of the proposed new charter for the CIA and the whole issue of really the rules of the game as it applies to how the CIA can conduct their operations today. It's something I'm certain you have some thoughts on.

Are you supportive of what is familiarly called the National Intelligence Act of 1980?

SENATOR BARRY GOLDWATER: Not completely. I think it's far too massive an act. There's over 280 pages in it. And while I think some charter provisions should be made, I don't think we should go that far. In other words, I don't want to, in the effort to unstring, unhamper the CIA, to hamper it more. And law has a tendency to do that.

Now, the important things would be to restrict the Freedom of Information Act so only qualified people can get that information, and not our enemies. And another needed step is to limit the number of people in the Congress that would be allowed to receive highly classified material, like presidential plans for clandestine operations. Those are really the two.

Then there's one other that I think we should pass, even though the Supreme Court has partially ruled on it. And that would be punishment for anyone who published the names, ranks and serial numbers of CIA people engaged in covert or actually spy operations, such as is going on today.

IRVING: Senator, you say that the number of people in Congress who are informed of covert activities should be limited. To what degree do you think that should be limited? Who should